(b) is so, when the above programme was started and what were the objectives thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that following introduction of the said programme, the irrigated system in the country has expanded; and

(d) if so, consequent upon introduction of this programme the average annual creation of irrigated land in the country during the intervening years upto March, 2007?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ): (a) to (d) The Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) has been taken up by the Government of India in the year 1996 with a view to complete the ongoing last mile irrigation projects. AIBP has helped in creation of irrigation potential at a relatively higher rate. The average rate of irrigation potential creation during the period from I Plan to VIII Plan was 1.38 million hectare (Mha) per year. During the IX and X Plan, the period during which AIBP has been implemented, the average rate of creation of irrigation potential has been 1.65 Mha per year.

Agricultural land under Wealth Tax

*414. SHRI NARESH GUJRAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that agricultural land, which is being used for agricultural purposes but falls under the Municipal limits/jurisdiction, is subject to Wealth Tax; and

(b) is so, whether Government is thinking of exempting it from Wealth Tax?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Urban land is an asset chargeable to wealth-tax under the Wealth-tax Act, 1957. "Urban land" under section 2(ea) of the Wealth-tax Act means land situated—

(i) in any area which is comprised within the jurisdiction of a municipality (by whatever name called) or a cantonment board and which has a population of not less than ten thousand according to the last preceding census of which the relevant figures have been published before the valuation date; or

(ii) in any area within such distance, not being more than eight kilometres from the local limits of any municipality or cantonment board referred to above, as the Central Government may, having regard to the extent of, and scope for, urbanisation of that area and other relevant considerations, specify in this behalf by notification in the Official Gazette,

but does not include—

(A) land on which construction of a building is not permissible under any law for the time being in force in the area in which such land is situtated; or

(B) the land occupied by any building which has been constructed with the approval of the appropriate authority; or

(C) any unused land held by the assessee for industrial purposes for a period of two years from the date of its acquisition by him; or

(D) any land held by the assessee as stock-in-trade for a period of ten years from the date of its acquisition by him.

Therefore, land which is being used for agricultural purposes but falls under Municipal limits/jurisdiction is subject to wealth-tax if the conditions referred in para (i) or (ii) mentioned above are satisfied. However, such land would not be subjected to wealth-tax if it comes under any of the exceptions mentioned at (A) to (D).

(b) No, Sir.

Paradeep Oil Refinery

*415. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the time-frame to complete Pradeep Oil Refinery of Indian Oil Corporation; and

(b) the total Budget and money spend on the project till date?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOCL) is setting up a 15 MMTPA (million metric tonnes per annum) Refinery, integrated with Petrochemicals Complex, at Paradip, with completion schedule as October, 2011.

(b) An amount of Rs. 2281.87 crore has been sanctioned for the project for carrying out pre-project activities, out of which, Rs. 1813.17 crore has been spent as on 31.3.2008.

Disinvestment in Public Sector Enterprises

*416. SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(b) the number of Public Sector Enterprises which are earning profit;

(b) the steps taken to improve their performance to earn profit, if any of these concerns is in loss;

(c) whether the disinvestment scheme is being implemented; and

(d) if so, the details of such units and the stages of their disinvestment?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) As per Public Enterprises Survey, 2006-07, there were 156 Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) that earned profit during 2006-07.

(b) Out of these 156 profit making enterprises 27 CPSEs continue to have accumulated losses on account of losses incurred in the past. Measures are being taken by the concerned administrative Ministries/Departments and the CPSEs to improve their performance through financial and business restructuring as well as manpower rationalization etc.

(c) and (d) The policy of disinvestment of Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) has been enuciated in the National Common Minimum Programme. Government has decided, in priciple, to list large, profitable CPSEs on domestic stock exchanges and to selectively sell small portion of equity in listed profitable CPSEs (other than Navratnas). The NCMP *inter-alia* also stipulates that private indsutry will be inducted to turnaround companies, those are having potential for revial.